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Gromyko Meets With the Spanish Prime Minister Amid Madrid-Washington Strains

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MADRID, Feb. 28 — Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko of the Soviet Union arrived here today for a two-day official visit during which he is expected to encourage Spain to oppose American plans to develop a space-based missile defense system.

Mr. Gromyko, who arrived from Italy, is also expected to press Spain to withdraw from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Spain joined NATO in 1982, but Prime Minister Felipe González has frozen military integration into the alliance and has called a national referendum on whether to remain a member for early next year.

The Gromyko visit comes at a time when Spain's Socialist Government is irritated with the United States.

Lieut. Gen. Vernon A. Walters, a special envoy for the Reagan Administration, conferred with Mr. González just

two hours before Mr. Gromyko met with the Prime Minister. The Walters visit had been scheduled for more than a month, but officials said the general's mission turned largely to calming the waters after a number of incidents involving the United States.

The most recent was a failure by the Reagan Administration to consult with Madrid before announcing last week that President Reagan was moving up his coming visit to Spain by two days. Mr. Reagan will now come May 6 for three days before going to Strasbourg to address the European Parliament.

2 Americans Expelled

The week before, two American diplomats were expelled from Spain for purported spying and a secret American contingency plan to place nuclear weapons in Spain and other countries was disclosed. The González Government said it was unaware of the plan and would not allow the weapons to be

deployed.

General Walters, who has been nominated as delegate to the United Nations, said in a brief interview that his talks with Mr. González had been "long and cordial." He declined to be more specific, citing diplomatic courtesies, though he said his visit had nothing to do with Mr. Gromyko's. He later left for Morocco.

Two unusually harsh articles in the Soviet press last week preceded Mr. Gromyko's visit. Sovetskaya Rossiya criticized what it said was the survival of fascism and right-wing military elements in Spain while Pravda attacked the Spanish Socialists for advocating NATO membership.

'We Won't Accept Pressure'

The harshness surprised Western diplomats because diplomatic relations between the two countries have improved since they were restored in 1977, two years after the death of Francisco Franco.

Mr. Gromyko made no public statements today. Foreign Minister Fernando Morán of Spain told reporters after greeting the Soviet official at the airport: "We will accept no pressure, not just from the Soviet Union. We won't accept pressure from anyone."

Mr. Morán said that he planned to exchange views with Mr. Gromyko on the space weapons but that Spain would decline making its own position public for the time being.

Mr. Morán visited the Soviet Union in 1983 and Mr. Gromyko is officially on a return call. He lunched with Mr. González today in a meeting described as friendly.

Technology Curbs Planned

Spanish officials said their primary interest in the talks was to redress a negative trade balance with the Soviet Union, which in the first 11 months of last year was more than \$170 million.

Sources close to the Walters talks said that Mr. González had decided to overlook the incidents involving the United States now because relations have been generally good.

As a sign of that, the Government announced today that it would impose restrictions on the re-export of American technology and negotiate an agreement to that end with the United States and the West's Coordinating Committee of Multilateral Export Controls, which prevents exports to the Soviet bloc.

The Reagan Administration had threatened to limit technological exports to Spain unless such restrictions were imposed. "We are confident that these negotiations will lead to a quick solution of the matter," the American Embassy here said today.